In the Claims:

Claims 1 to 24 (Canceled).

25. (Previously presented) A semi-fabricated intermediate article for producing a composite material, comprising a plurality of discs (10) that each respectively comprise a matrix material and that are arranged as a loose stack of said discs which are not yet joined to one another, each said disc (10) in said stack further comprising: a radially inner opening (11) surrounded by an inner disc edge and a disc ring portion surrounding said inner opening and surrounded by an outer disc edge, said disc ring portion comprising a groove (13) and at least one reinforcing fiber (14) embedded in said groove (13) with said matrix material surrounding and consolidated around said at least one reinforcing fiber in said groove, thereby forming a fiber reinforced disc ring section, said reinforcing fiber (14) and said groove (13) being spaced radially outwardly from said inner disc edge thereby forming an inner first disc ring section free of reinforcing fiber, said reinforcing fiber (14) and said groove (13) being spaced radially inwardly from said outer disc edge thereby forming an outer second disc ring section free of reinforcing fiber, said fiber reinforced disc ring section being positioned between said first and second disc ring sections free of reinforcing fiber.

26. (Previously presented) The semi-fabricated intermediate article for producing the composite material of claim 25, wherein said first disc ring section free of reinforcing fiber comprises a first radial width that is the same in each disc in said stack, and wherein said second disc ring section has a second radial width that differs in different discs in said stack.

27. (Previously presented) The semi-fabricated intermediate article for producing the composite material of claim 25, wherein said groove in each disc in said stack has a spiral shape so that said at least one reinforcing fiber (14) extends spirally inside said fiber reinforced disc ring section.

28. (Previously presented) The semi-fabricated intermediate article for producing the composite material of claim 26, wherein said second radial width that differs in different discs is individually adapted for each disc in said stack.

29. (Previously presented) The semi-fabricated intermediate article for producing the composite material of claim 25, wherein said matrix material comprises titanium or a titanium alloy, and said at least one reinforcing fiber comprises a silicon carbide fiber in each said disc in said stack.

30. (Previously presented) The semi-fabricated intermediate article for producing the composite material of claim 26, wherein said second disc ring section free of reinforcing fiber in one disc in said stack is overlapped by at least one fiber reinforced disc ring section of at least one neighboring disc in said stack at an interface between said fiber reinforced disc ring section and said second disc ring section free of reinforcing fiber.

31. (Previously presented) The semi-fabricated intermediate article for producing the composite material of claim 25, wherein said grooves in neighboring discs of said stack are radially displaced relative to each other so that said at least one reinforcing fiber in a given disc is radially staggered relative to respective reinforcing fibers in neighboring discs in said stack.

32. (Withdrawn) A method of processing the semi-fabricated intermediate article for producing the composite material of claim 25, said method comprising the steps:

a) providing said plurality of said discs (10) of said matrix material,

b) forming at least one said groove (13) in each disc of a number of discs in said plurality of discs (10),

c) inserting said at least one reinforcing fiber (14) in each said groove (13) of a respective disc of said number of discs,

d) consolidating each said disc with said at least one reinforcing fiber (14) in said groove (13) thereof respectively so as to form a consolidated disc in which said at least one reinforcing fiber (14) is surrounded on all sides and embedded in said matrix material,

e) stacking said consolidated discs to form said loose stack as said semi-fabricated intermediate article, and

f) joining each said disc in said stack to a neighboring said disc or discs in said stack to form a solid stack as said composite material.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, further comprising performing said step of providing by producing said plurality of discs (10) with said radially inner opening (11) surrounded by said inner disc edge, forming said at least one groove in said fiber reinforced disc ring section with a first spacing from said inner disc edge, and forming said at least one groove in said fiber reinforced disc ring section with a second spacing from said outer disc edge of said disc (10) whereby said first disc ring section free of reinforcing fiber is formed radially inwardly of said groove (13) and said second disc ring section free of reinforcing fiber is formed radially outwardly of said

groove, so that said fiber reinforced disc ring section with said at least one groove (13) therein is positioned between said first and second disc ring sections free of reinforcing fiber.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, further comprising performing said step of forming by making said groove (13) to a depth, in an axial direction, larger than a diameter of said at least one reinforcing fiber (14) so that lands (15) project above said at least one reinforcing fiber (14) inserted in said groove.

35. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, further comprising performing said step of consolidating each said disc (10) with said at least one reinforcing fiber (14) in said groove (13) thereof by exposing said disc to a superplastic deformation so that said fiber is enclosed on all sides by said matrix material.

36. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 33, wherein said step of stacking is performed so that each said radially inner opening (11) of each said disc in said stack is axially aligned with all other said radially inner openings to thereby form a hollow cylinder.

Claim 37 (Canceled).

38. (Withdrawn)) The method of claim 32, wherein said step of joining is performed as a diffusion welding of said discs (10) to form said solid stack.

39. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32, further comprising inspecting each said disc, following said consolidating step and before said stacking step, for any breaks in said at least one reinforcing fiber and for any cracks in said matrix material, and discarding any said disc in which a break or a crack is discovered.

40. (Previously presented) A composite material article comprising a plurality of annular ring-shaped composite discs arranged axially aligned with one another and stacked successively to form a stack of said discs, wherein:

each respective disc of said plurality of composite discs respectively comprises an annular ring of a matrix material including an inner ring portion bounding a central axial hole of said disc, an outer ring portion bounded by an outer periphery of said disc, and an intermediate ring portion between said inner and outer ring portions;

each said respective disc respectively further comprises at least one reinforcing fiber that extends in a direction around said central hole in said intermediate ring portion, and said outer ring portion of said matrix material does not include said at least one reinforcing fiber therein; and

each said respective disc is respectively bounded by first and second annular surfaces, and said at least one reinforcing fiber is embedded in and surrounded by said matrix material that is consolidated around said at least one reinforcing fiber, so that said at least one reinforcing fiber is located between and axially displaced inwardly away from said first and second annular surfaces, as results from a fabrication process in which a groove deeper than a diameter of said at least one reinforcing fiber was provided in said matrix material of said intermediate ring portion of said respective disc, said at least one reinforcing fiber was disposed in said groove of said respective disc, and said respective disc was consolidated so as to deform said matrix material thereof to close said groove around said at least one reinforcing fiber.

41. (Previously presented) The composite material article according to claim 40, wherein said discs are loosely stacked on one another in said stack and are not yet joined to one another.

Claims 42 and 43 (Canceled).

44. (Previously presented) The composite material article according to claim 40, wherein said groove and said at least one reinforcing fiber extend along a spiral path around said central hole.

Claims 45 and 46 (Canceled).

[RESPONSE CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE]